

MINUTES OF MEETING  
State Board of Education  
March 13-14, 2003

The March meeting of the Board of Education was held in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. Board members Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Greg McClain, Don Roby, Jim Billings and Kay Wagner were present. Charles Edwards, Jr. was present for the Friday meeting. Also present were Department Director Ted Stilwill and Department staff Gail Sullivan, Lee Tack, Judy Jeffrey, Jan Friedel, Carol Greta, Eric Heitz, Beverlee Adams, Kathi Slaughter, John Hartwig, Beverly Bunker, Shawn Snyder, Laurie Johnson, Barbara Guy, Ray Morley, Marlene Dorenkamp, and LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl. Also present were Senator Bob Brunkhorst, Iowa Senate; John Myers, Partner, Augenblick & Myers; Lisa Oakley, Department of Management; Dory Briles, Senior Vice President of Development, Des Moines Area Community College; Howard Shapiro, Vice Provost, Iowa State University; Dwayne Fossen, Steve McCann, Richard Moffitt, and Dave Devalois, MIRENCO Corporation; Tracy Harms, School Administrators of Iowa, Terry Voy, Iowa Pupil Transportation Association and Iowa Association of School Boards; Jim Wise, Urban Education Network; Elaine Smith Bright, School Administrators of Iowa; John Winter, John Deere Company; Nick Page, University of Northern Iowa; Nadene Davidson, Price Laboratory School; Sherry Brown, Kim Winterhof, and June Weiss, Iowa PTA.

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

The March 13-14, 2003 agenda was approved.

**Honors and Recognition**

Jim Billings, representing the State Board, recognized the MIRENCO Corporation and their partners, School Administrators of Iowa, Iowa Pupil Transportation Association, Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Education for exemplary work with the Bus Emission Education Program (BEEP). This program benefits school districts in the State of Iowa and is recognized across the nation. Billings indicated the BEEP project was the first of its kind in the United States that involves an entire fleet of school buses from which test data will be derived.

An update on the project was presented by Dwayne Fosseen, CEO and Chairman and Richard Moffitt, Director of Information Services, of MIRENCO Corporation.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Board Reports**

Kay Wagner – No report.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick indicated that she and Kay Wagner had attended the Area 9 Superintendent's meeting at which Director Stilwill was a participant.

Sally Frudden reported that her local school district had passed their local option sales tax in February.

Jim Billings told the Board he had attended a meeting at Spirit Lake Community School District with the school board, parents, students, community leaders and teachers on "eligibility". He indicated Mary Jean Montgomery had also met with them in February. He had also attended a meeting at Harris-Lake Park School District on rural education and concerns of small school districts.

Don Roby indicated that the Community College Council discussed and approved all the community college items before the Board.

Greg McClain reported that he had introduced Brenda Welburn, Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education to the Equity Seminar held in Des Moines. Ms. Welburn was presenting the report from the Changing Faces of America's School Children study group. McClain indicated he had been a member of that study group.

McClain indicated he had participated in the National Association of State Boards of Education Finance and Audit Committee meeting. An agenda topic for this group was the budget and how to stay within the budget. One of the concerns affecting the NASBE budget was that not all states were paying their annual dues on time. He was pleased to report that Iowa's dues were paid.

Mr. McClain indicated he had exchanged several e-mails with the Iowa Testing representative that presented at the last Board meeting. He said he had requested some correlation data and the response he received was fantastic. McClain commented that he would be sharing this information with the Board.

He reported he had met with Barbara Barhorst, Hawkeye Community College regarding the recruitment and retention of women and minorities. He handed out a list of programs and activities of Hawkeye Community College that affect serving minorities and women. Dr. Friedel indicated this information was available from the community colleges and would be requested from each individual college.

Greg McClain indicated he had given a presentation on the No Child Left Behind Act to the University of Missouri, Rolla Chancellor's Advisory Committee for the Recruitment and Retention of African Americans. He commented he would also be giving a No Child Left Behind presentation to the Missouri Association for Blacks and Higher Education.

McClain reported he had met with a group of minority students and parents from Black Hawk County. The group consisted of students interested in engineering, math and science that were part of the Upward Bound program.

Gene Vincent indicated the Student Board Member Committee would be comprised of Jim Billings, Mary Jean Montgomery and himself. He noted the Board would be kept posted on the progress of this selection.

### **Director Report**

Director Stilwill reported on the peer review for Iowa's No Child Left Behind plan that had been held in Des Moines. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Education, the Kansas City Regional Office of Education and several other entities conducted the Iowa review. Stilwill indicated he and Judy Jeffrey would be attending a meeting in Washington, D.C. with Secretary of Education Paige and staff concerning the No Child Left Behind Act and the Iowa plan.

### **Legislative Update**

Ted Stilwill, Director introduced Eric Heitz as the new legislative liaison. Heitz updated the Board on the latest actions of the legislature on education issues. Director Stilwill reported that budget targets were very low again this year.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the January 16, 2003 meeting were approved.

## **Rules**

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 21 Community College Faculty Standards was approved for notice of intended action as proposed.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 19, Attendance Centers was approved for notice of intended action as proposed.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 18, School Fees was approved for adoption as proposed.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 51, Approval of On-the-Job Training Establishments under the Montgomery G.I. Bill was approved for adoption as proposed.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 52, Approval of Educational Institutions for the Education and Training of Eligible Veterans under the Montgomery G.I. Bill was approved for adoption as proposed.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 83, Teacher Quality Program was approved for adoption as proposed.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 11, Unsafe School Choice Option (Persistently Dangerous Schools) was approved for adoption as proposed.

## **Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval**

The Generalist Level I paraeducator preparation programs offered by Loess Hills AEA 13, Council Bluffs and Western Iowa Tech Community College, Sioux City were approved as proposed.

## **Appeal Decision**

Administrative Law Judge, Carol Greta, reviewed the appeal decision In re William Austin Deck. She indicated the Appellant was seeking reversal of a decision of the Sioux City Community School District Board of Directors made on August 5, 2002, denying a request that their son transfer intradistrict from West High School to North High School.

**Motion:** Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved and Sally Frudden seconded that the decision of the Sioux City Community School District Board of Directors' decision made on August 5, 2002, to deny the transfer request from West High School to North High School be affirmed.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Funding for K-12 Education – The National Perspective**

Lee Tack, Administrator Division of Financial and Information Services, introduced John Myers, Partner, Augenblick & Myers to discuss funding for K-12 education.

Mr. Myers discussed school district funding related to major school reform. He indicated that currently 46 states face significant budget shortfalls and have K-12 education reductions. Equity issues were central to school finance discussions from the 1970's to 1990. Since 1990 questions of adequacy have come to the forefront. Both the states and federal government use "standards-based" reform for dealing with school finance adequacy.

Myers indicated that the No Child Left Behind federal legislation has states focusing on:

- Specific standards and strategies for assessment
- Placing "highly qualified" teachers in classrooms
- Strategies for helping at-risk students meet standards

He indicated that states such as Iowa use foundation formulas. In foundation formulas, the base should reflect what is needed for a student with no special needs to meet standards in a district with no special circumstances. Adjustments can be made to the base for special education, at-risk, limited English-speaking as well as district size and cost-of-living. He reported the state of Maryland had formed a Commission to study school finance equity and adequacy. The Maryland Act restructured Maryland's public school finance system and increases state aid to public schools by \$2.2 billion over the next six fiscal years.

## **The Focus on High Schools Report**

Ted Stilwill, Director introduced Barbara Guy, consultant, Transition and Work Experience. She introduced several members of the cross-bureau team formed in the Department to address the needs of high school students and to research promising practices for high schools of today. Guy indicated the team had selected individuals from across the state with an interest in high schools to form a leadership team. She indicated this team had committed many hours to the study and development of specific recommendations regarding the direction for high school change. A PowerPoint presentation was narrated by a number of the leadership team members. Guy reported that five characteristics of effective high schools had been identified as follows:

1. Students have deep and supportive relationships with adults over sustained periods of time.
2. Students have enriched opportunities to learn, perform, and be recognized.
3. All efforts are focused on a clear, powerful educational agenda.

4. Students, staff, parents and community share responsibility for student success.
5. School is engaged in dynamic, continuous improvement that is student focused.

Dory Briles, Des Moines Area Community College, explained to the Board that the fundamental tenets of the above characteristics were that they needed to be 1) student focused, 2) characteristics should be interrelated, 3) a characteristic would not be evident until all critical elements exist and 4) one size does not fit all. John Winter, John Deere Corporation presented how the organization of the work was distributed and Nadene Davidson explained the results of the community conversations. Briles indicated the team hoped that the report would be a springboard for change and would be used as a foundation for next steps for changing Iowa high schools, and to guide the state's continued efforts with education reform PK-16.

Greg McClain felt this report should be widely distributed in the state and that the National Association of State Boards of Education could possibly highlight this report to all members of NASBE. He also recommended that a statement be issued to districts regarding the priority the State Board was placing on this document. Don Roby said he felt the Board should go on record that they would look seriously at incorporating these recommendations into their strategic plan. Gene Vincent indicated that he would challenge the Board to live up to the expectations that the Leadership team had proposed.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Don Roby and seconded by Jim Billings that the State Board would integrate the recommendations from this report into their Strategic Plan.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Annual Budget Approval for Area Education Agencies**

Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services presented this agenda item. He introduced Marlene Dorenkamp, Consultant for this project. Dr. Tack reported that the Iowa Code required that the Board either grants approval or returns the budget without approval with comments by April 1. The Board gives final approval only to budgets submitted by AEAs accredited by the Board and all AEAs have been accredited for the 2003-2004 school year. Tack reviewed the AEA budgets for the Board and recommended approval.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Don Roby and seconded by James Billings that the State Board approve the AEA budgets for fiscal year 2003-2004.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Districts Having Negative Unspent Balances for FY01-02**

Administrator Lee Tack, Division of Financial and Information Services, gave an overview of the districts with negative unspent balances for the previous fiscal year and the amounts by which these districts exceeded their budget authority. He indicated this information is also reported to each board member of the respective district. The districts are required to prepare corrective action plans to be presented to the March School Budget Review meeting. The following school districts are cited for exceeding their authorized budgets for the 2001-2002 school year:

Aplington Community School District  
Colo-Nesco Community School District  
River Valley Community School District  
Graettinger Community School District  
Orient-Macksburg Community School District  
Wall Lake View Auburn Community School District

### **Early Childhood Literacy Report**

LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Children, Family, & Community Services reported that Every Child Reads: Birth to Kindergarten is a statewide effort to increase the capacity of early care and education systems. This program enhances the language, reading and writing skills of children before entering kindergarten. A five-year State Improvement Grant was awarded from the federal government to the Iowa Department of Education in 1999. Sherman-Proehl indicated that the Every Child Reads: Birth to Kindergarten part of the grant encompassed development of a literacy training program, implementation, technical assistance and evaluation of the training. The training specifically targeted early care and education providers to enhance language, reading, and writing skills of 3- to 5- year-old children.

Ms. Sherman-Proehl explained the Cedar Valley Promise CEA that is a pilot site for this program. She outlined the results of the program after three years. She felt that if an impact on children's academic success in our schools was to be made—we must start in the early years. Eighty percent of Iowa's infants and preschoolers are in the care of someone other than their parents due to the high rate of both parents working in Iowa. She indicated it was crucial that the care and education providers have a foundation of knowledge and skills to not only provide a safe and healthy environment for children but also to enhance children's language, reading, and writing development. She handed out several learning tools for how to read to young children at different levels.

Sally Frudden indicated she hoped the Board would embrace this information and keep it as part of their priority package. She felt this program would strengthen the idea of creating universal pre-schools.

### **Strategic Planning**

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, outlined the strategic planning process of the Board. She indicated that it is the basis of the Board and Department efforts to align goals and strategies with customer needs and helps target scarce resources more effectively by clarifying desired results. Sullivan discussed the process and timeline for reviewing the strategic plan, an assignment that was identified by the Board as part of their leadership and advocacy agenda. She felt it was important with limited resources to use the dollars for the highest priority.

Director Ted Stilwill talked about how all the state plans fit together. He indicated that the Accountable Government Act aligned with the State Board strategic plan and with the statewide enterprise plan. He proposed that the Board take a long-term look at what needs to happen in the vision for the future. Partnering with community colleges, other sectors of higher education and preschools might be ways to effectively look at using our resources wisely.

Charles Edwards, Jr. said the Board should be mindful that they have measurable goals and realities. He felt they should take a strong look at the indicators. Edwards also felt the Board should look at an outside facilitator for the strategic plan discussion in June.

Greg McClain indicated he thought the Board goals should be aligned with other groups. He felt the Board should think about what road and process to choose in achieving this accomplishment. McClain suggested a facilitator that had expertise in strategic planning.

Sally Frudden commented that this was a policymaking Board and the System Goal already in place would not change. She felt No Child Left Behind and its accountability would require the Board to be flexible and to revisit the priorities.

Don Roby stated that his perception of planning was to create common goals. This would entail goals to strive for and to be accountable to the public. He felt that a strategic plan should be a long-range plan on what we think the Board can achieve with a long timeframe built in.

Jim Billings felt there should be a simple way to pare ideas down to a common goal. He also stated he liked the idea of using an outside facilitator.

Director Stilwill said the State Board and Department had adopted state and local indicators to measure the progress being made in attaining the common



goals. He felt the strategic plan discussion should be an open discussion of the goals and indicators to be used in the future.

Gail Sullivan indicated she would pursue seeking an outside facilitator for the June retreat and would work with the retreat committee on setting up an agenda.

### **Iowa's Adult Basic Education Program Benchmark Report for Program Year 2002**

John Hartwig, Educational Program Consultant, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation presented an overview of the Adult Basic Education Benchmark report. He reported the passage of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 had required this accountability. The overall goal of the Act was to increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and, as a result improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation. Hartwig indicated the key principles included in the Act were:

- Streamlining services
- Empowering individuals
- Universal access
- Increased accountability
- New roles for local boards
- State and local flexibility
- Improved youth programs

John Hartwig said that one of the major intents of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act was to establish performance measures and benchmarks to demonstrate increased accountability in line with the major goals and objectives of the Workforce Investment Act. He indicated the Iowa Department of Education is subject to certain core indicators of performance and has the authority to specify additional indicators. Hartwig also listed the federally mandated core indicators. He reported that the report provides baseline data, which could be used as a guide for program improvement for the year 2003. The benchmarks clearly demonstrate that Iowa's Adult Basic Education Program is making a difference in the lives of those served.

Director Stilwill handed out the proposed topics for the April State Board of Education meeting.

President Vincent adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

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Gene Vincent  
President

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Ted Stilwill, Executive Officer and  
Director